

***HELOPICUS RICKERI*, A NEW STONEFLY FROM TENNESSEE (PLECOPTERA: PERLODIDAE)¹**

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ABSTRACT: *Helopicus rickeri*, n. sp is described from a single male collected in Tennessee (USA). The epiproct is atypical of other *Helopicus* in bearing spines, but the absence of lateral stylets, presence of transverse meso and metasternal pigment bands along with the mesosternal groove conformation suggest this tentative generic placement.

William E. Ricker recently sent a distinctive perlodid male, which he recognized as a new species in 1965, to me for study. As he noted on his determination label, this specimen "does not fit any present subgenus" but it is apparently most closely allied to *Helopicus* Ricker. Since Stark and Ray (1983) gave comparative figures of the known *Helopicus* species, I take this opportunity to bring a remarkable stonefly to the attention of aquatic biologists. Hopefully this description will promote discovery of the nymph and female and subsequently the testing of this generic placement.

***Helopicus rickeri* n. sp.**

Male. - Macropterous. Forewing length 15 mm; body length 13 mm. General color brown, patterned with yellow. Wings hyaline, veins brown. Mesosternum and metasternum with transverse band, interrupted by areas of lighter pigment lateral to midline. Hemitergal lobes broadly rounded, sparsely covered with setae and sensilla basiconica. Dorsal aspect of epiproct bulbous, with slender recurved tip; dorsal sclerite tapered throughout length; a pair of prominent, posteriorly directed sclerotized spines located lateral to dorsal sclerite in apical third; membranous area of epiproct covered with fine short setae. Ventral aspect of epiproct with scoop-like apex (Figs. 1, 2).

Mesosternal grooves typical of genus. Submental gills present. Lateral stylets absent.

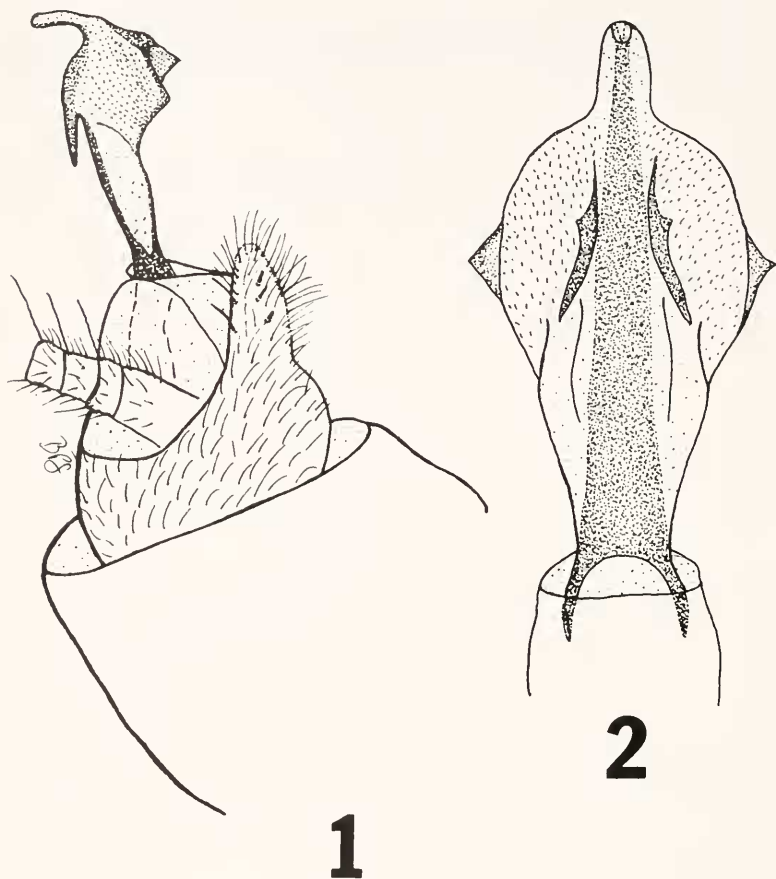
Types. - Holotype ♂ (100976) from 5.5 mi W of Hartsville, Trousdale Co., TN, USA, 28-III-1965, M. Braasch, deposited at the United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.

Etymology. I take great pleasure in naming this species for Dr. W.E. Ricker in honor of his numerous contributions to stonefly systematics.

Diagnosis. - This species is distinguished from other *Helopicus* by the presence of dorsal sclerotized spines on the epiproct. The epiproct superficially resembles that of *Hydroperla crosbyi* (Needham and Claassen) in lateral aspect (Stewart and Stark 1977; Ray and Stark 1981) but these two species are distinguished by the absence of lateral stylets in *Helopicus rickeri*.

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Figures 1-2. *Helopicus rickeri*, male genitalia. 1. Terminalia, lateral. 2. Epiproct, dorsal.

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